

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner Mr. Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee and the SPE, Mr. Fritz Fleming, for their time in conducting an Examiner's interview, this is truly appreciated. Receipt of the Interview Summary, dated October 19, 2006, is acknowledged and the comments/remarks stated on the Continuation Page of the same have been reviewed. It is believed that the claims, as recited hereinabove, alleviate the issue cited in the Interview Summary. That is, the task files have been added to the independent claims.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-21, 24-26 and 28-43 remain pending and claims 2, 3, 8, 22, 23 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, 5, 20, 24 and 33 have been amended, as recited hereinabove.

Claims 1, 6-7, 9-14, 20-21 and 25-26 and 28-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Grieff et al. (US Patent No. 6,961,813) (hereinafter "Grieff") in view of Talati (US Patent No. 6,763,402) (hereinafter referred to as "Talati"). It is believed however that the foregoing claims, as recited hereinabove are patentable and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over Grieff in view of Talati.

The remarks appearing in the Interview Summary of October 19, 2006, have been reviewed and in connection therewith, it should be noted that unlike Talati, the claimed invention does not require the hosts to log in. Nevertheless, host task files have been added to the independent claims and in this manner, in the claimed invention, the first host or second host units concurrently access the device, as recited hereinabove.

More specifically, in the claimed invention, the first and second task files are each separately responsive to commands from the first and second host units, respectively, and as such they allow for "concurrently accessing the device, through the switch, by accepting commands, from either of the first or second host units, at any given time, ...". Furthermore, arbitration is not performed until after commands have been stored in the task files. In contrast thereto, Talati uses a single queue, i.e. buffer RAM 194 and performs arbitration of commands prior to queuing, which are some of the reasons, among others, for preventing Talati from "accepting commands, from either host, at any given time". [See Talati: Col. 5, lns. 26-30].

Furthermore, the combination of Grieff and Talati is believed to be erroneous as Talati is directed to the problem of interfacing a data storage device, a SATA device, to a

plurality of host data processing systems, through an IEEE 1349a bus and therefore uses bridges to convert the interface protocols and, whereas, Grieff is directed to a switch receiving input, through SATA ports, from multiple host devices and an arbiter module for assigning a priority scheme to received commands and for transmission thereof to a storage device through SATA ports. Therefore, Talati would not have been motivated to solve the problem solved by the claimed invention by using the teachings of Grieff, as Talati did not consider receiving input from SATA ports.

It is therefore believed that claims 1, 6-7, 9-14, 20-21 and 25-26 and 28-39 are patentable over Grieff in view of Talati and all claims depending therefrom are also necessarily patentable.

It is believed that Ng (US Patent 6,388,590) (hereinafter referred to as "Ng") also lacks separate task files for each host and therefore does not render the claimed invention obvious in combination with the foregoing references. For example, in Fig. 3, if the PC 52 is perceived as a host, there is only one task file 72b in the CD-ROM device 54. Furthermore, there is only one host and arbitration is not done after receipt of commands.

Claims 2-5 and 22-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grieff and Talati in view of Ng (US Patent 6,388,590) (hereinafter referred to as "Ng"). It is believed that Ng also lacks separate task files for each host unit and therefore does not render the claimed invention obvious in combination with the foregoing references. For example, in Fig. 3, if the PC 52 is perceived as a host unit, there is only one task file 72b in the CD-ROM device 54. Furthermore, there is only one host. It is believed that the claimed invention is patentable over these references for, inter alia, the foregoing reasons. As a separate basis of patentability, the combination of the foregoing references, as the basis of rejection, is disagreed therewith since neither of these references suggests or hints at the teachings of the other for reasons indicated above in addition to others.

It is therefore believed that claims 2-5 and 22-24 are patentable over Grieff in view of Talati and in further view of Ng and all claims depending therefrom are also necessarily patentable.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7, 9 - 26 and 28 - 32 is hereby respectfully requested. Consideration and allowance of claims 33-43 is additionally respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the subject application is now in condition

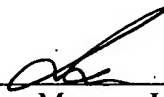
Application No. 10/775,488
Amendment dated November 6, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of September 6, 2006

for allowance and an early notice thereof is respectfully requested. Should any further amendment be required prior to passing the application to issue, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number set out below.

Lastly and not related to the current office action, Applicant has noticed a statement that warrants attention in terms of correcting the previous record. In conducting a review of the first Examiner's Interview Summary, which was after the first interview and on page 4, paragraph 5, last sentence thereof, a statement was made as to " However, the applicant agrees that while the device is in an idle state, commands can be received concurrently.", which is disagreed with but was not mentioned in the last office action response. The foregoing quoted comment was made regarding Grieff. While Grieff is believed to receive concurrent requests, it cannot concurrently receive commands at any time including in idle state. This point is stated here merely to correct the record and serves no purpose as to the current rejections.

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICES OF IMAM

Dated: November 6, 2006
LAW OFFICES OF IMAM
111 North Market Street, Suite 1010
San Jose, CA 95113
Tel: 408-271-8752

By 
Maryam Imam
Reg. No. 38,190

Fax: 408-271-8886

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all attachments is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on November 6, 2006 by Erika Villafana.

